

Sarah Baugh (SOS) 246-2035
SB 170

1/29/2011

ESTATE ATTORNEY

EXHIBIT NO. 6

DATE 1/31/11

EXHIBIT SB 170

Dear Mr Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Baugh and I am from Central MT.
I am asking you to oppose SB 170.

Epilepsy is my primary disability, so my process of obtaining a renewal license would not be threatened by this bill. However, I do use medical cannabis to treat pain as well. I have lost approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of my teeth due to grinding from seizures and stress. I have extensive reconstructive work ahead of me in the next year. My teeth are very fragile and can cause a great deal of pain. When it gets bad, I do not reach for pain pills. I have seen first-hand the devastating effects of pharmaceuticals on my mind and body. Prior to cannabis treatment, I weighed 350 lbs from prescription drugs, yet was still having up to 12 seizures per day. Now that I treat with medical cannabis, I have been seizure-free for over 1 year. So although I have not tried "all other alternatives" to treat this particular pain, I choose not to. I choose to use my medical cannabis, which I am approved to use for my epilepsy, to treat my chronic pain.

When I medicate for my epilepsy, I usually ingest. When I am treating for pain, I usually smoke cannabis. The relief is immediate, and the benefits from just a small amount of cannabis continue long after any possible euphoric effects could linger. This is not the case with pharmaceuticals, many of which will leave me totally doped up until it is time to take another pill.

Cannabis was a last-resort treatment for my epilepsy because of the state I live in. The endless pharmaceuticals nearly cost me my life. This bill would guarantee that others would have to undergo the same suffering and wasted years that I did just to find safe treatment. As it stands, prescription drugs have cost more lives in MT in the last year than cocaine, meth and heroine combined. To this day there has not been one single lethal overdose of cannabis. To require cannabis to be a last resort treatment is immoral.

Why do we dry passing a law which would LIMIT the circumstances in which particularly/potentially lethal and addictive drugs are prescribed and EXPAND the circumstances in which natural, non-lethal, low-side effect medications can be recommended ??

This bill also recommends a panel of 3 physicians to approve any pain recommendation. It has been my understanding that the state of MT would like to see genuine doctor-patient relationships and a high standard of health care emerge from this program. How can you justify the fact that, by this bill, the final decision on a patient's healthcare would be made by individuals who have never met or spoken with the patient in question ??? No other treatment for any other illness requires these ludicrous procedures, and singling pain patients out for extra hassle and expense is simply wrong.

Thank you for your time. ~Sarah Baugle







